

REMARKS

Claims 24-42 and 44 are pending in the application and are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 34 and 35 have been amended and claims 1-23 and 43 have been cancelled. Applicant believes that the claim amendments, cancellations, and the accompanying remarks serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that they do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Allowed Claims

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 24-33, 36-42, and 44 are allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)-Ware

Claims 1 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,280,327 to Ware ("Ware").

Claims 1 and 43 have been cancelled rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 23 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ware in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,148,833 to Wilson et al. ("Wilson").

Claim 23 has been cancelled rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

Claims 34 and 35 have been amended to depend from claim 24. As noted above, claim 24 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 34 and 35 are allowable at least for the same reasons.

Withdrawn Claims

Applicant notes that withdrawn claims 2-22 have been cancelled.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If any questions remain regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

No fee is believed due. However, please charge any required fee (or credit any overpayments of fees) to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket no. 7640-X03-013).

Respectfully submitted,



Martin Fleit, Reg. # 16,900

By: Paul D. Bianco, Reg. # 43,500

Customer Number: 27317

Paul D. Bianco

FLEIT KAIN GIBBONS GUTMAN BONGINI & BIANCO

21355 East Dixie Highway, Suite 115

Miami, Florida 33180

Tel: 305-830-2600; Fax: 305-830-2605

e-mail: pbianco@focusonip.com